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November 10, 1998

Magalie R. Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

Re: COMSAT Corporation
Direct Access to the INTELSAT System
(IB Docket No. 98-192; File No. 60-SAT-ISP-97)
Errata to correct erroneous docket number

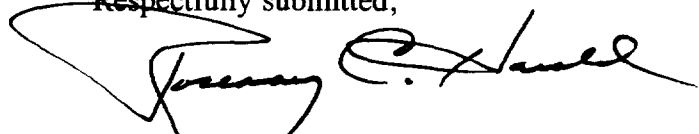
Dear Ms. Salas:

By its undersigned attorney, COMSAT Corporation ("COMSAT") hereby submits erratum pages to correct a typographical error that appeared in the IB docket number referenced on the cover pages for its comments and executive summary filed in the above-referenced proceeding on December 22, 1998. Also enclosed is a corrected copy of the first textual page of the comments, which also bore the same typographical error.

In accordance with Sections 1.46 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, this submission consists of the original corrected pages and four complete copies of each page.

Please date-stamp the attached duplicate upon receipt and return it via the messenger for our records. If any questions arise concerning this matter, kindly contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


Rosemary C. Harold

Enclosures

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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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In the Matter of

Direct Access to the
INTELSAT System

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IB Docket No. 98-192
File No. 60-SAT-ISP-97

To: The Commission

COMMENTS OF COMSAT CORPORATION

Richard E. Wiley
Lawrence W. Secrest, III
William B. Baker
Rosemary C. Harold

WILEY, REIN & FIELDING
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December 22, 1998

Warren Y. Zeger
Howard D. Polsky
Keith H. Fagan
Bruce A. Henoch

COMSAT CORPORATION
6560 Rock Spring Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
(301) 214-3000

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
UNIT OF THE GOVERNMENT

In the Matter of)

Direct Access to the)
INTELSAT System)

IB Docket No. 98-192
File No. 60-SAT-ISP-97

To: The Commission

COMMENTS OF COMSAT CORPORATION

COMSAT Corporation ("COMSAT") hereby submits comments and supporting materials in response to the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* ("Notice") in the above-referenced docket.¹ As set forth herein, the Commission lacks the statutory authority to implement its proposal for Level 3 direct access. Moreover, the proposal raises substantial constitutional issues under the Fifth Amendment. In addition, the *Notice* offers no factual basis to justify such a radical departure from the agency's own long-established determination that direct access would not serve the public interest. Finally, mandating direct access at this time would seriously jeopardize achievement of U.S. policy goals relating to privatization of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization ("INTELSAT").

¹ *Direct Access to the INTELSAT System*, IB Docket No. 98-192, File No. 60-SAT-ISP-97, FCC 98-280, ¶ 15 (rel. Oct. 28, 1998) (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) ("Notice") (calling for comment on "implementing Level 3 contractual direct access"). The *Notice* envisions that U.S. customers would deal directly with INTELSAT to obtain capacity. *Id.* at ¶ 8. While these customers would place their orders with and make utilization payments directly to INTELSAT, COMSAT would remain liable for satisfying U.S. investment and other treaty obligations to the intergovernmental satellite organization.

Before the
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Washington, D.C. 20554

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

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Direct Access to the
INTELSAT System

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IB Docket No. 98-192

File No. 60-SAT-ISP-97

To: The Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

of the

COMMENTS OF COMSAT CORPORATION

Richard E. Wiley
Lawrence W. Secrest, III
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December 22, 1998